



R4: ACTION NOW

ISSUE 6

MARCH 2026

BUILDING WORKING CLASS POWER! REGION 4 AT THE 2026 NATIONAL CAP CONFERENCE



THIS ISSUE

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R4 MEMBERS DEMAND THE BREAD BOX AT THE 2026 BALLOT BOX ISSUE INTRODUCTION FROM REGION 4 DIRECTOR CAMPBELL & AD DESPAIN

Hello, Region 4! Thank you for taking in this edition of R4 Action Now! As you will see in this issue, we are making note of Women's History Month and the contributions women make to our union. Secretary Treasurer Mock, Vice President Dickerson, Regional Director English are but a few female UAW leaders breaking glass ceilings and ensuring the collective voices of Women are heard on the International Executive Board. Rest assured, right here in Region 4, fierce and passionate women such as R4 Reps Kelli Harrison, Shawana Woods, Heather Keag, Laura Hebert, and so many Local Union Sisters climbing the ranks, are the leading edge of fighting for justice across our 12 states. Additionally, so much of the work of Region 4 would be left undone if not for the union sisters of the Office of Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), our administrative staff, who labor day in and day out ensuring Region 4 Staff Representatives have the opportunity to succeed. Thank you all for your service to our union!

In this season, we must also reflect on February's Black History Month and the contributions made to our union by countless black labor leaders who have brought visionary leadership and invaluable insight at every stage of our union. Region 4 is fortunate to have the benefit of significant diversity that comes with representing members from our large cities of Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis, and St Louis, to our smaller rural communities in the MN Iron Range to Marshalltown, IA, Dexter, MO, and Coffeerville, KS. This diversity of race, religion, background and being enables the creativity necessary to better address significant challenges workers face in this country.

This is the premise of Issue 6 of R4 Action Now. UAW members are tired of hoping politicians, regardless of party, will come to their senses and do right by working folks. We're tired of politicians rich in platitudes but bankrupt when legislation is necessary for those who cannot fund their next campaign. While sometimes, some legislators demonstrate support for workers, these instances are too few and far between. Let us also be clear, neither party does enough for labor. Democrats in Illinois carried the Workers' Rights Amendment to completion and Republicans in Kansas supported laid off Local 31 members. On the other hand, the Governor of Colorado, a Democrat, vetoed a bill that would have ended Colorado's odd law that requires workers to hold a second vote, after they've already voted to form their union, with a 75% threshold to gain the right to bargain a union security clause. Republicans have pushed for 'right-to-work' laws across the Region and advanced cuts to collective bargaining rights and workers compensation laws. We expect legislators, regardless of party, to welcome the work we do in solidarity with workers.

UAW members sometimes ask why their union is involved in politics at all. These are just a few reasons. As you see in this issue, Region 4 members are not sitting back hoping a friend will win election. **REGION 4 MEMBERS ARE STANDING UP AND TAKING ACTION, NOW!** When UAW members ask why we're involved in politics, the answer is simple. **WE MUST BE!** If we don't have a voice in legislative halls, only the CEO's voices will be heard!

REGION 4 WOMEN'S FALL CONFERENCE

JOIN US THIS YEAR! OCTOBER 11-16, 2026



UNION WOMEN EARN MORE

Union members typically make more per week than non-union workers - but the bonus is larger yet for women. According to the National Women's Law Center, non-union workers experience a gender wage gap of 18 cents on the dollar compared to 12 cents on the dollar for union members. Greater wage transparency, formal grievance processes, standardization in collectively bargained wages, and union representation to address wage complaints are important contributors to the shrinking wage gap women are experiencing as union members. While the gender pay gap has slightly narrowed for all fulltime workers over the past two decades in the United States, most consistently for workers ages 25-34 (Pew Research Center), there is still policy work to be done if women are to enjoy equal financial security to men.

The Labor movement is at the forefront of these policy battles across the states. According to the Economic Policy Institute, we need policies that lift wages for all workers while also reducing the gender and racial/ethnic pay gaps, such as running the economy at full employment, raising the federal minimum wage, and protecting and strengthening workers' rights to bargain collectively for higher wages, paid family leave, and more affordable healthcare. We need accurate federal reporting of pay by gender, race, and ethnicity; regulations that prohibit employers from asking about pay history; requirements for employers to post pay bands when hiring; and adequate staffing and funding for the Equal Employment and Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

The EEOC has begun announcing their 2026 changes to policy and procedure under the Trump administration. To date, they have rescinded guidance on harassment in the workplace and consolidated power to politically appointed commissioners in approving or disapproving litigation. The Commission is also signaling a shift in enforcement of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act toward reducing accommodations for pregnant women and narrowing the definition of "related medical conditions". In the years ahead it will be more critical than ever to have employee rights explicitly outlined in our bargaining agreements as federal policy weakens on behalf of the worker. Defending working families requires defending the civil rights of working women.



2026 PRIMARIES: R4 ELECTION DATES

ILLINOIS: MARCH 17TH
NEBRASKA: MAY 12TH
IOWA: JUNE 2ND
MONTANA: JUNE 2ND
SOUTH DAKOTA: JUNE 2ND
NORTH DAKOTA: JUNE 9TH
COLORADO: JUNE 30TH
KANSAS: AUGUST 4TH
MISSOURI: AUGUST 4TH
MINNESOTA: AUGUST 11TH
WISCONSIN: AUGUST 11TH
WYOMING: AUGUST 18TH



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**NCSL**
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

The National Conference of State Legislatures is a great resource for primary election dates, legislative calendars, and policy trends across the states this election year.

EQUAL PAY DAY

Equal Pay Day in the United States was inaugurated by the National Committee on Pay and Equity in 1996, as a symbolic day highlighting how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned the previous year. Communities have begun celebrating Equal Pay Day throughout the month of March to raise awareness and direct policy goals to shrinking the wage gap.

FRANK HENDERSON FOR KANSAS



LET'S BE FRANK! AN ARMY VETERAN, A FATHER OF SIX, AND A PROUD UNION MEMBER, FRANK KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT FOR A FAIR DEAL.

Frank Henderson is running for office in the Kansas State House District 6 this election year, where he hopes to be a voice for working people. Frank has been a UAW Member for 26 years at Local Union 710, where he has been first elected to office as a Chairperson in 2011 and has served as Recording Secretary for the past eight years. Through leadership roles at his union, Frank began to see how government policies directly affect workers, inspiring him to become more involved in politics. He currently serves as Co-Chair to the Miami County Democratic Party in the rural district of Kansas where he lives with his family, as well as precinct committee person. Frank is running as a Democrat because he believes their policies are better for working and middle class families. His priority after winning election is working with legislators on labor-friendly bills. Frank is hoping by running for political office he can inspire more rank and file union members to run for office as well. He believes UAW members and all working people should care about politics because the laws passed affect our every day lives and jobs. He would like to see union members involved as broadly as possible in our government policies. THANK YOU to Frank for standing up to improve his community and his country from all of us at UAW R4.

[CAMPAIGN WEBSITE:](#)

FRANKHENDERSONFORKANSAS.ORG

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[ACT BLUE SECURE LINK](#)



DERBY FOR IOWA

Marcques Derby is running for office in Iowa State House District 99 this election year, representing the people who make Iowa work. The fight for good jobs, fair wages, and stronger public schools is all too real in Southeast Iowa, where Marcques' Burlington CASE plant will close for good in May of this year. Marcques believes his community deserves better investment and better leadership. As an ARMY veteran and current Bargaining Chair of Local 807, Marcques is all too familiar with the responsibilities that accompany leadership and service. Politics is not an abstraction to Marcques; it is the determinant of whether families can live and work in their communities. Instead of helping working families, the Iowa legislature is making hard times harder by cutting and delaying unemployment benefits as factories close and job losses climb. Once elected, Marcques' priority is protecting and growing existing jobs, local services, and the long-term stability of local schools and healthcare systems in Southeast IA. THANK YOU to Marcques for acting on his convictions and putting the working people of Iowa first again.



[/DERBYFORIOWA](#)

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SANDY WELCH FOR ROCK COUNTY

UAW Local 95 Vice President, Sandy Welch, is running for Rock County Board of Supervisors District 28 this election year in her home state of Wisconsin. Sandy has been a medical transcriptionist at a large healthcare facility and a proud UAW member for 25 years. She has been engaged in politics for some time, serving as Vice President to the LU 95 CAP Council. This will be the first public office that Sandy has run for, though it is something she has long considered pursuing as a community leader. Issues of vital importance to Sandy include affordable daycare for working parents, housing and infrastructure, as well as mental health services and resources to families who find themselves in difficult times. Sandy was a part of the 2025 strike at her local union, which she believes opened a lot of people's eyes to the struggles of workers. The value of having a union on her side has been important to Sandy. She looks forward to winning her race and bringing labor issues to the forefront on her county board. THANK YOU to Sandy for rising up to meet the needs of Wisconsin working families.

 [/SANDYWELCH4ROCKCOUNTY](#)
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DON LOONEY FOR MISSOURI



**PUT THE SOLID BACK IN SOLIDARITY!
 DONALD LOONEY IS READY FOR THE WORKING FAMILIES OF MISSOURI TO BE HEARD.**

Donald Looney is running for Missouri State House District 63 this election year, determined to turn his state legislature into a worker-friendly political body. A UAW member of local union 2250 in Wentzville, MO, since 2014, Donald believes that union members don't always recognize the economic and political power that they possess in coalition with working families. When elected, he plans to make our voices heard. Donald is a loud and proud Democrat with an interest in politics and American history tracing back to his childhood. He vividly recalls the 1984 Mondale/Ferraro presidential campaign as an early spark to his engagement in current affairs and politics. He has been reading and devouring history and breaking news ever since. Donald started getting involved with his local CAP council in 2016 with questions about the UAW candidate endorsement process. He has now served as the LU 2250 CAP Chair for three years with a great appreciation for the history of the UAW and the Labor movement and their respective roles in worker rights, civil rights, and the democratic process. After winning his election, Donald's priorities include living wages and healthcare for working families. A supporter of Missouri's 2024 Proposition A ballot measure for healthy families and fair wages, Donald plans to hold legislators accountable who have repealed this initiative, denying MO workers COLA and paid sick leave. He looks forward to working with legislators and citizens who want to fight for workers. THANK YOU to Donald for bringing solidarity to the forefront and standing up for working families in his state.

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 [/LOONEY4MISSOURI](#)



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39TH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 15-18, 2026 DETROIT, MICHIGAN

R4 SPRING CONFERENCE SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

LEADERSHIP MTG: FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH

We are pleased to have guests with national name recognition tentatively scheduled to attend. Stay tuned for further updates as the weekend approaches!

CONTRIBUTE

This Newsletter is the voice of UAW Region 4. Local Leadership and Councils are encouraged to send in any stories that contribute positively to the welfare of Region 4 and our members. Reach out to our R4 Offices!

ARCHIVES

All issues of our Action Now Newsletter can be found on our R4 website or by clicking [ARCHIVES](#) above. We have a lot to celebrate in Region 4.

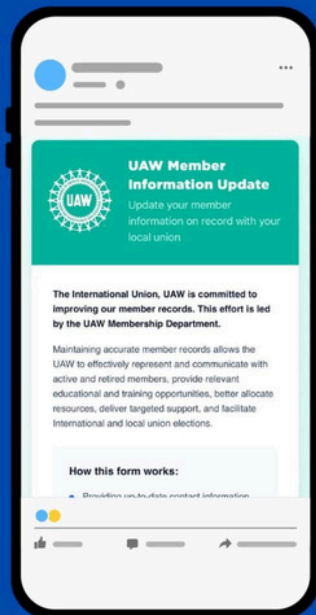
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**FILLING OUT THIS FORM
ALLOWS THE UNION TO:**



Send you important communications, news, and updates

Ensure you receive a ballot to vote in the 2026 UAW International Officer Election

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